

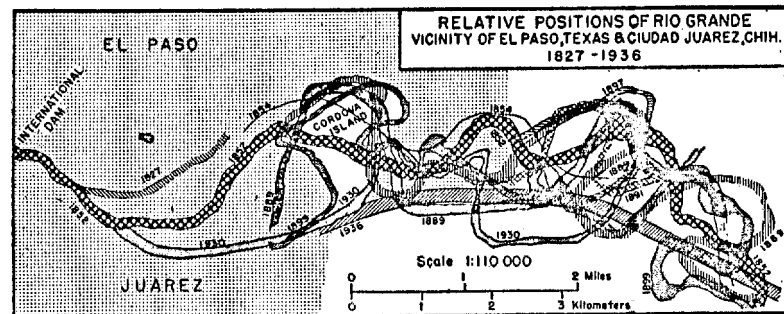
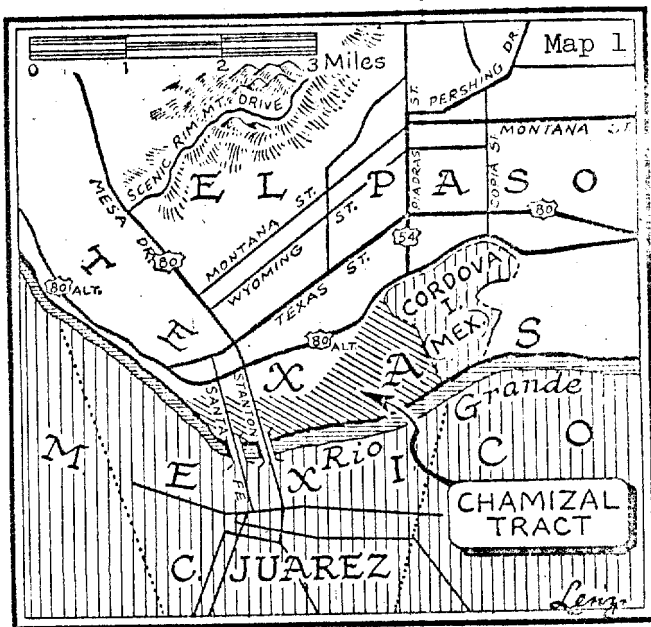
CIA/BI GB 66-13

1 October 1965

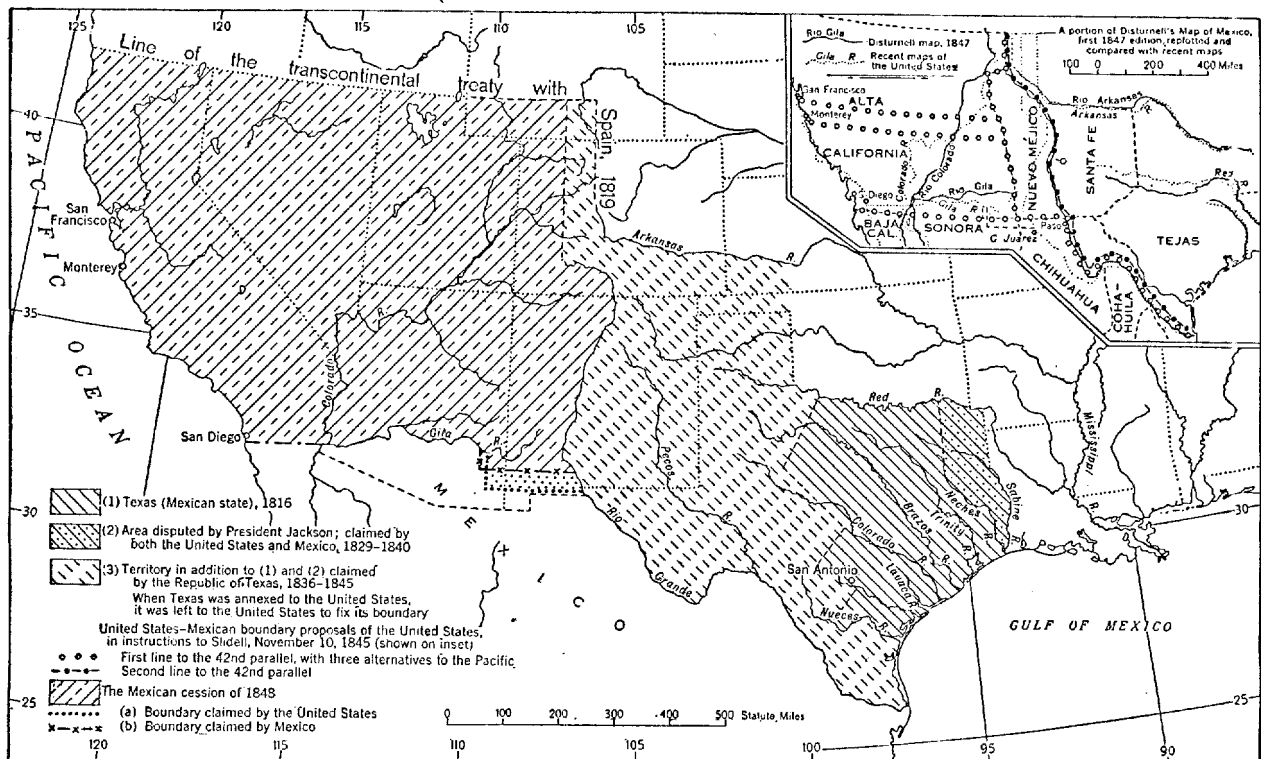
MEMORANDUM

1. The long-standing Chamizal Dispute between the governments of the United States and Mexico, resolved in August 1963 by diplomatic agreement, revolved around a tract of land that was called El Chamizal and that consisted of several hundred acres situated between El Paso, Texas and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The tract was created by the shifting courses of the Rio Grande which left it on the United States side of the boundary where part of it was ultimately included within the city limits of El Paso (see Maps 1 and 2). Final treaty negotiations were complicated by the presence of buildings and several hundred inhabitants in the tract, and at the time of settlement it was estimated that at least 2 years legal work would be required to clarify property transfers. The treaty called for a relocation of the river channel, transferring 823.50 acres of land to the south side of the Rio Grande and leaving 195.16 acres of the adjacent area known as Cordova Island on the United States side. Costs of construction of the new river channel were to be borne equally by the two governments, and compensation for structures to be destroyed would be borne by the government in whose jurisdiction they were prior to relocation of the channel.

2. The Chamizal area is one of several such shifting tracts of land of varying sizes along the international length of the Rio Grande; the largest, still to be negotiated, are the Ojinaga tracts comprising some 2,000 acres north of the Rio Grande near Presidio, Texas (about two-thirds of the way between El Paso and the Big Bend). The United States-Mexico boundary as such was established, following the annexation of Texas (1845), by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in February, 1848 and modified 5 years later by the Gadsden Purchase. The boundary delineation followed the middle of the Rio Grande from the Gulf of Mexico to the southern boundary of New Mexico, thence along the southern boundary of New Mexico and up the western boundary of that state to the nearest point to a branch of the Gila River, thence down the middle of that branch and of the Gila River to the Colorado River, across the Colorado River, and thence in a straight line to the Pacific Ocean. By this treaty, Mexico ceded to the United States those areas known as Upper California, Nuevo Mexico, and the northern portions of Tamaulipas, Coahuila, and Sonora. The Gadsden Purchase in 1853 added the Mesilla area south of the Gila River and delineated the present-day borders of southwestern New Mexico and southern Arizona (see Map 3).



Map 2 FLUCTUATIONS OF THE RIO GRANDE
NEAR EL PASO AND CIUDAD JUAREZ, 1827-1936
(Map made by the United States section, International Boundary Com-
mission, United States and Mexico.)



Map 3. Texas and Mexico, 1823-1848.

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30 September 1965

GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY NOTICE	
TO:	CHIEF, GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH, OERI DIRECTOR OF BASIC INTELLIGENCE
THROUGH:	CHIEF, GEOGRAPHY DIVISION, OERI OBI
FROM:	CHIEF, WESTERN HEMISPHERE BRANCH
SUBJECT:	GEOGRAPHIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY NOTICE
1. SUBJECT	
The Chamizal Dispute between the United States and Mexico	
2. PROBLEM	
The DCI's Office requested, for his clarification, a brief discussion of the 1963 settlement of the Chamizal Dispute, with a background statement on the U.S.-Mexico boundary delineation.	
3. NAME OF REQUESTER	4. NAME OF D/GG ANALYST
██████████ o/DCI 25X1A	██████████ 25X1A
5. COORDINATION WITH OTHER OFFICES	
6. DUE DATE	
ASAP	
7. PROJECT NUMBER	
8. REMARKS:	
<p style="text-align: center;">GB 66-13</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 Oct 65</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; font-size: 8px;"> GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification </div> <div>25X1A</div> </div> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 15px; margin: 0 auto;"></div> </div>	

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1 Oct 65 (21-37)